

SUBCHAPTER V. PERSONNEL.

Article 17C.

Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission.

§ 115C-268.1. Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission.

(a) Commission. – There is created the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (Commission). The purpose of the Commission is to involve stakeholders in establishing high standards for North Carolina educators. The Commission shall make rule recommendations regarding all aspects of preparation, licensure, continuing education, and standards of conduct of public school educators.

(b) Location. – The Commission shall be located administratively under the State Board of Education but shall exercise its powers and duties independently of the State Board of Education.

(c) Membership. – The Commission shall consist of the following 18 members:

- (1) The General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, shall appoint the following:
 - a. One superintendent.
 - b. One principal.
 - c. One dean, or dean's designee, of an educator preparation program at a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina.
 - d. One dean, or dean's designee, of an educator preparation program at a nonpublic postsecondary educational institution in North Carolina.
 - e. One dean, or dean's designee, of an educator preparation program at a historically black college or university in North Carolina.
 - f. One teacher.
 - g. One personnel administrator from a local school administrative unit in North Carolina with at least 30,000 students.
 - h. One at-large member.
- (2) The General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall appoint the following:
 - a. One superintendent.
 - b. One principal.
 - c. One dean, or dean's designee, of an educator preparation program at a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina.
 - d. One dean, or dean's designee, of an educator preparation program at a nonpublic postsecondary educational institution in North Carolina.
 - e. One teacher.
 - f. One personnel administrator from a local school administrative unit in North Carolina with less than 30,000 students.
 - g. One member of the State Advisory Council on Indian Education.
 - h. One at-large member.
- (3) The State Teacher of the Year.
- (4) The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee.

In making appointments, the General Assembly is encouraged to select qualified citizens who are committed to improving the teaching profession and student achievement and who represent the racial, geographic, and gender diversity of the State. Before their appointment to this

Commission, with the exception of the at-large members, the members must have been actively engaged in the profession of teaching, in the education of students in educator preparation programs, or in the practice of public school administration for at least three years, at least two of which occurred in this State. Appointed members shall serve for two-year terms. Initial terms shall begin September 1, 2017. Vacancies in the membership shall be filled by the General Assembly, as provided in G.S. 120-122, using the same criteria as provided in this subsection.

(d) **Organization and Functioning.** – The Commission shall elect a chair, a vice-chair, and a secretary from among its membership. In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall preside over the Commission's meetings. All members are voting members and a majority of the Commission constitutes a quorum. The Commission shall adopt rules to govern its proceedings.

(e) **Meetings.** – Meetings of the Commission shall be held upon the call of the chair or the vice-chair in the absence of the chair. The Superintendent shall call the initial meeting of the Commission.

(f) **Compensation and Reimbursement.** – Members of the Commission shall receive compensation for their services and reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties required by this Article at the rate prescribed in G.S. 138-5 and G.S. 138-6.

(g) **Personnel.** – The Commission may employ, subject to Chapter 126 of the General Statutes, the necessary personnel for the performance of its functions and fix compensation within the limits of funds available to the Commission. (2017-189, s. 1(a).)

§ 115C-268.5. Powers and duties of the Commission.

(a) **Duties.** – The Commission shall:

- (1) Develop and recommend to the State Board of Education rules related to all aspects of educator preparation programs in accordance with Article 17D of this Chapter. These rules shall include the following:
 - a. Requirements for appropriate pedagogy to be included in residency license programs.
 - b. Appropriate courses to be used for calculation of individual and cohort grade point averages for admission to educator preparation programs, which may account for prior degrees attained, type of license, and areas of licensure. The Commission shall consider which grade point average, either the grade point average in the content courses relevant to the licensure area or the cumulative grade point average, would be most appropriate for clinical residency students.
- (2) Develop and recommend to the State Board of Education rules related to all aspects of professional standards for North Carolina educators in accordance with Article 17E of this Chapter. These rules shall include specific hour requirements for the following:
 - a. Preservice training and field experiences prior to entering the classroom for individuals issued residency licenses.
 - b. Preservice training prior to entering the classroom for individuals issued emergency licenses.
- (3) Provide recommendations as requested to the State Board of Education related to the educator preparation programs and professional standards of North Carolina educators.

(b) The Commission shall recommend ways to ensure that the clinical practice requirements described in G.S. 115C-269.25(d) effectively prepare high-quality professional educators who meet the demands of North Carolina schools.

(c) State Board Approval. – The Commission shall submit its recommendations under subsection (a) of this section to the State Board. The State Board shall adopt or reject the rules recommendations. The State Board shall not make any substantive changes to any rules recommendation that it adopts. If the State Board rejects the rules recommendation, it shall state with specificity its reasons for rejection; the Commission may then amend that rules recommendation and resubmit it to the State Board. The Board shall adopt or reject the amended rules recommendation. If the State Board fails to adopt the Commission's original and amended rule recommendations, the State Board may develop and adopt its own rules.

(d) Annual Report. – The Commission shall submit a report by December 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the State Board of Education of its activities during the preceding year, together with any recommendations and findings regarding improvement of the teaching profession. (2017-189, s. 1(a).)